

## ABSTRACT

A communication apparatus and method which can quickly determine the link condition of the data link layer is provided. The communications apparatus comprises a receiving unit operable to receive link status flags, the link status flags  
5 included in frames received over a data communication link in response to link status flags included in frames transmitted over the data communication link, and a link status determination unit operable to determine whether a condition of the data communication link is normal based on whether the link status  
10 flags are received within a predetermined time.